The Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society
Connecticut ENT Society
Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
Connecticut Urology Society

February 27, 2013

Supporting Testimony
For the Public Health Committee
On
RB 5110 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF A UNIVERSAL CHILD HEALTH FORM.

Good Morning Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and other distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Dr. Steven Thornquist and I am a board certified ophthalmologist practicing in Trumbull, Connecticut. I am also an officer of the Connecticut State Medical Society.   I am here to support RB 5110 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF A UNIVERSAL CHILD HEALTH FORM on behalf of over 1000 physicians in ENT, Dermatology, Ophthalmology and Urology and our patients.

For most of us there is no need greater and no effort more important than ensuring that our children grow up healthy happy, and able to participate in life's activities to the fullest extent of their ability. The Universal Child Health Record endorsed by RB 5110 will facilitate that goal by streamlining and centralizing each child's health information. The members of our combined societies have a special interest in this issue since we have played a key role in establishing mandatory hearing and vision screening requirements that have proven their worth by identifying children at risk for significant vision and hearing deficits and disease, and getting them sent to the appropriate specialist for more comprehensive evaluation and treatment. These screening programs have proved to be extraordinarily effective in identifying those children at risk and they do so with minimal cost to both the state and the families of the affected children. We applaud the continuing effort to institutionalize this process and organize it in a way that facilitates the needs of educators, camp counselors, and day care workers, and we would be happy to work with you on incorporating appropriate screening into the Universal Health Record.